

219-21 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET (Double house)
Jeannette
Westmoreland County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-6140

HABS
PA
65-JEAN,
17-

PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
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ADDENDUM TO:
219-221 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET (DOUBLE HOUSE)
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

219-221 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET (DOUBLE HOUSE)

HABS No. PA-6140

- LOCATION: 219-221 South Seventh Street, Jeannette, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania
- SIGNIFICANCE: A high concentration of window, tableware, bottle and specialty glass plants distinguished Jeannette as "The Glass City" early in its history. Significant housing stock consists of company-built row and detached double houses, and several privately constructed dwellings.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

When he bought the first of two lots where this double house stands in late December 1889, Belgian immigrant Victor Vislet was already the third owner since H. Sellers McKee had sold the property the previous April. Vislet acquired another lot in spring 1890 and was already assessed for this building, placed to the rear of the lots along the alley, in 1891. Vislet was just noted as a glassworker that year, but in following years, he worked as a flattener, which probably meant he held a well paying position at Chambers & McKee Glass. Two more two-story frame houses were added by Vislet to the fronts of the lots along Bullitt Avenue by 1893, and in 1910 Victor, now listed as self-employed, was living in one of these with his wife Desiree and their 22-year old son, who was then attending medical school. Living in the double house in 1910 were the Albright and Kelty families. The heads of both young families were cutters in the glass factories. Their wives did not work outside the home, instead caring for their young children: three in the Albright household and two in the Kelty household.

Desiree Vislet sold the lots and houses in 1919 to John and Jennie Hergott, who in turn sold the properties to Attilio and Zelinda Marchignoli in 1925. Attilio was a confectioner and he and his family lived across Seventh Street at No. 218. The two dwelling units in the double house, the only one of the three Vislet houses still standing, were owned by the Marchignoli's heirs until the 1960s and 1970s.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

Constructed ca. 1890-91, this was one of the earliest buildings in the neighborhood to be built individually for its owners. This four bay by two bay double house is most conspicuous in its simplicity. Only the understated wood cornice and millwork brackets attempt a decorative quality, though some other ornament may have been lost with the

installation of smaller windows and aluminum siding. A continuous rear porch was added by 1900 and one story ells with new rear porches show on the maps by 1910. The rear addition is now completely enclosed.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Insurance Maps of Jeannette, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1891, 1895, 1900, 1905, 1910, 1916, 1925.

Deed Books. Recorder of Deeds, Westmoreland County Courthouse, Greensburg, Pennsylvania. 175/577, 178/607, 185/581, 185/583, 666/566, 794/462, 1814/308, 1814/312, 1814/315, 1814/319, 1939/624, 1981/273, 2253/1111, 2288/491.

City Directories, 1897, 1913, 1923, 1928, 1948, 1960.

Tax Assessment Books. Westmoreland County Tax Assessment Office, Westmoreland County Courthouse, Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1910 census manuscripts on microfilm.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

In February 1987, the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) and the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) began a multi-year historical and architectural documentation project in southwestern Pennsylvania. Carried out in conjunction with America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), HABS and HAER undertook a comprehensive documentation of Jeannette, documenting industries, housing and cultural institutions.